(c) CIL had purchased 92 nos. of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) for linking up with RABMN owned by the Deptt. of Telecom for installation in different subsidiary companies of CIL. Of these, 39 teminals were rendered idle after being in use for some time due to reorganisation of areas and mines in Eastern Coalfields Ltd.. Of these 14 have been relocated leaving 25 idle for the present.

(d) The cost of each VSAT is Rs. 7,44,676.70. These machines were purchased in 1992 for facilitating point to point data communication connecting different areas within the subsidiary companies by using Deptt. of Telecom RABMN as part of Coalnet.

This communication system using Deptt. of Telecom facilities was cheaper than the dedicated communication system. The purchases were necessary to upgrade the communication network in CIL.

मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में चावल भंडारण की अपर्याप्त व्यवस्था

*211. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के चावल उत्पादक क्षेत्र छत्तीसगढ़ में चावल भंडारण की पर्याप्त व्यवस्था नहीं है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या वहां नए गोदाम बनाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो नए गोदाम किन-किन स्थानों पर और कब तक बनाए जायेंगे; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) से (घ) भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने सूचित किया है कि छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में उसके पास पर्याप्त भंडारण क्षमता है। 1.2.1997 को स्थिति के अनुसार इसकी क्षमता और इसकी उपयोगिता निम्नानुसार थी:—

(लाख टन में)

भारतीय खाद्य निगम जिला	भंडारण क्षमता	प्रतिशत उपयोगिता
बिलासपुर	1.98	61%
रायपुर	3.99	63%
दुर्ग	1.78	42%
जोड़:	7.75	57%

भारतीय खाद्य निगम के पास पहले सी ही उपलब्ध भंडारण क्षमता के अलावा केन्द्रीय भंडारण निगम से किराये पर लेने के लिए गोदाम भी उपलब्ध हैं। यह सूचित किया गया है कि मध्य प्रदेश राज्य भांडागार निगम के पास भी छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में 5.16 लाख टन की क्षमता उपलब्ध है। फिर भी भारतीय खाद्य निगम की भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए निगम की योजना है कि धमतरी में 10000 टन क्षमता के गोदाम का निर्माण किया जाए बशर्ते कि निधियां उपलब्ध हों।

Losses Incurred by Hindustan Copper Limited

*212. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loss incurred by the Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) during April-November, 1996 and there reasons therefor;

(b) whether the HCL has sought short term loan from Government to meet its immediate capital expenditure, input, wages etc.;

(c) if so, action taken by Government to release the said short term loan to HCL;

(d) whether the HCL has urged the Government to raise customs duty on copper; and

(e) if so, the details of the action taken by Government on the above?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI

BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) suffered a net loss of Rs. 99.32 crores during April-November, 1996 mainly due to substantial fall in LME price of copper, reduction in customs duty on copper and hike in petroleum price and Railway freight in the last Central Budget.

(b) to (e) In view of the loss incurred by the Hindustan Copper Limited, the Company had requested for increase in customs duty on copper and had also asked for Budgetary support for payment of wages and salaries and to meet the Plan expenditure. The matter was taken up by the Ministry of Mines with Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission and a provision of Rs. 13 crores as Budget support has been made to meet the Plan expenditure in the Budget Estimates for 1997-98.

Implementation of Person with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act

*213. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1996, has not been implemented as the rules proposed to be made therein have not been notified so far;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether a copy of the Rules made there in are proposed to be laid on the Table of the House;

(d) whether it is proposed to set up a Central Co-ordination Committee for overseeing and monitoring of the implementation of the Act; and

(e) if so, the details of the constitution of the Committee with it's terms and reference?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) The persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has come into force w.e.f. 7.2.96. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 73 of the above Act of the Central Government have framed Rules and notified them vide Gazette of India, Extra-ordinary under Part-II—Section—3—Sub-section (ii) as S.O. No. 908 (E), dated 31.12.96. Copies of the Notification were laid on the Table of House on 24.2.97.

(d) and (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and (2) of section 3 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (1 of 1966) the Central Government constituted the Central Coordination Committee on 21.2.97 consisting of the following members:

Appointed under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 3:

1.	Welfare Minister	Chairman (ex-officio)

Appointed under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 3:

2.	Secretary Ministry of Welfare	Member (ex-officio)
3.	Secretary Depart of Education	Member (ex-officio)
4.	Secretary Department of Women and Child Development	Member (ex-officio)
5.	Secretary Department of Expenditure	Member (ex-officio)
6.	Secretary Department of Personnel and Training	Member (ex-officio)